

**FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)
PROJECT FACT SHEET
AUGUST 1994
TAG REVIEW DATE:**

1. SITE NAME: Camp Breckinridge

SITE NUMBER: G04KY002800

LOCATION:

City: Morganfield
County: Union (with small portions
in Webster and
Henderson)
State: Kentucky

PROJECT NUMBER: G04KY002806

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: 2

ASR RAC: 1

2. POC's:

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3. SITE DESCRIPTION: The former Camp Breckinridge lies one mile east of Morganfield, Kentucky. Most of the site is in Union County, with small sections of the eastern side in Webster and Henderson Counties. The INPR lists the size as

35,636.78 acres. Currently, the land is used for farms, houses, commercial establishments, an active subsurface coal mine, a number of oil wells, a federal job training facility, and a state-run wildlife management area. The impact area is mostly open farm land with some small wooded areas and some grazing of livestock. There are very few homes in the impact area itself, but there are a number of buildings for storage of farm equipment, grain silos, livestock barns, etc. There are a number of oil wells with associated pipe lines and oil storage tanks scattered throughout the entire area. Ordnance items are frequently found by civilians, including farmers as they plow their fields. Many of these are unexploded HE rounds. Interviewees mentioned that, until recently, nearby EOD teams would come up for a week or so at a time to clear OE.

4. SITE HISTORY: The Department of Army acquired 35,636.78 acres from various owners between 1942 and 1948 for use as a training camp during World War II. Built for a capacity of 30,000 troops, the population exceeded 45,000 at the camp's peak in 1944. Camp Breckinridge was also the site of a prisoner of war camp for over 3,000 German enlisted men from 1943 through 1946.

The post was placed in an inactive status in 1946. Then, in 1948, it was reopened when the 101st Airborne Division was reactivated to train soldiers coming in from the newly instituted peace-time draft. The military population exceeded 40,000 during this period.

In 1949, the post was once again placed in an inactive status, where it remained until 1950, when it was reopened to train troops for the Korean War. During this period, the existing buildings and facilities were completely rehabilitated and new buildings and facilities were added. Then, in 1953, the installation was again placed in a standby status.

In 1955, the post was partially reactivated to provide Annual Field Training Support to reserve component units. In addition, the facilities were used by reserve component units for weekend training and by active army units for special field training. In 21 years, over 100,000 infantry soldiers trained there. In the summer of 1962, the last 4,000 troops trained at Camp Breckinridge.

On 26 November 1962, 35,636.55 acres were reported excess to the General Services Administration. The Corps of Engineers was given the task of decontaminating the post. The impact area was divided into three sections. Brush and trees were burned off before each area was searched. After the burn, lanes were marked off and teams of men walked the lanes, marking each item of ordnance found with a stake. EOD personnel examined each item and determined what was hazardous and what was not. Nonhazardous items were picked up and hazardous items were either moved deeper into the impact area and destroyed or detonated on the spot. Lt. Murphy, who commanded the cleanup effort, made it a point to say in an interview in the *Union County Advocate* that it was a surface sweep only. He said, "We mark and clear only what we see at ground level. If there are any buried rounds, which is not likely, they are not removed." By 12 December 1963, over 15 tons of OE had been removed.

By 1965, land was being auctioned off. The last of the Camp Breckinridge property was sold in 1969.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

AREA "A"

Between 1989-1993, EOD recovered 136 items of OE, many of them live HE projectiles. At the time of the ASR site visit, area residents had on hand a total of 24 additional items of OE found in this area.

Size, Acres: 12,816
Former Use: Impact Area
Present Use: Farming/Mining
Probable End Use: Same as Present
Ordnance Presence: **Confirmed**
Type: Grenades, Mortar Rounds,
and Artillery
Projectiles
(75mm, 90mm, 105mm, 155mm)
ASR Recommends: IRA with follow-up EE/CA RAC 1
HNC Safety: Concurs

AREA "B"

Size, Acres: 18
Former Use: Buffer Area
Present Use: Farming/Mining
Probable End Use: Same as Present
Ordnance Presence: **Confirmed**
Type: Mortar Rounds
ASR Recommends: IRA with follow-up EE/CA RAC 3
HNC Safety: Concurs with IRA, EE/CA but RAC 1

AREA "C"

Size, Acres: 1,782
Former Use: Troop Training
Present Use: Farming/Mining
Probable End Use: Same as Present
Ordnance Presence: **Potential**
Type: Flares, Grenade Simulators, Booby trap
Simulators
ASR Recommends: IRA RAC 3
HNC Safety: Concurs with IRA, EE/CA but RAC 1

AREA "D"

Size, Acres: 5,281
Former Use: Bivouac Areas
Present Use: Wildlife Management
Probable End Use: Same as Present
Ordnance Presence: **Uncontaminated**
ASR Recommends: NOFA
HNC Safety: Concurs

AREA "E"

Size, Acres: 4,157
Former Use: Admin./Housing
Present Use: Homes/Light Industry
Probable End Use: Same as Present
Ordnance Presence: **Uncontaminated**
ASR Recommends: NOFA
HNC Safety: Concurs

AREA "F"

Size, Acres: 12,144
Former Use: Buffer, Bivouac
Present Use: Farming/Mining
Probable End Use: Same as Present
Ordnance Presence: **Uncontaminated**
ASR Recommends: NOFA
HNC Safety: Concurs

6. CURRENT STATUS: A draft Archive Search Report was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, in August 1994.

7. STRATEGY:

THIS SITE SHOULD RECEIVE A HIGH PRIORITY AMONG RAC 1 EE/CAs.

EE/CA: Areas A, B, and C
NOFA: Areas D, E, and F

8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS:

TCRA: On July 8, 1997, the TCRA Steering Group met to discuss whether or not the impact area met the criteria for a Time Critical Removal Action. It was decided that it

did not. However, a letter will be drafted from HNC to the district PM requesting landowner notification by the Geographic District of **confirmed** OE contamination and development of an action plan by the Geographic District for coordination of EOD and other agencies when OE is found. HNC will offer its support and provide a sample notification letter with the appropriate language. (This letter is stronger and more specific than the INPR notification letters.)

SIZE OF FUDS: The 1992 INPR (Document E-1) lists the area of Camp Breckinridge as 35,636.78 acres. A book published in 1987, Peyton Heady's *History of Camp Breckinridge Kentucky*, lists the acreage variously as 35,887 acres, 35,684.99 acres, and approximately 36,000 acres. Local newspapers, the *Evansville Courier* (Document H-1) and the *Union County Advocate* (Document H-2) also support the 36,000 figure. However, a War Department study from September 1945 (Document E-3) gives the size as 50,700 acres "all of which is government-owned." Due to the on-going potential for injury, it is prudent to begin the EE/CA before accounting for the "missing" 14,000+ acres.

Natural Resources: There are known Federally- and State-listed species occurring in the area. An on-site inspection by appropriate State and Federal personnel may be necessary to verify the presence, absence or location of listed species, or natural communities. See Reference B-21 and/or Table 3-2 for more information concerning affected species.

Historical/Cultural Resources: No direct evidence of the presence of any archaeological sites was noted during the visit, but the area was home in prehistoric times to an ethnic group known as Mound Builders. See Reference B-1. Also on site is the officer's club where a series of murals were painted by German prisoners of war. A local business man was seeking help in preserving the paintings as of 1991.

9. SCHEDULE SUMMARY: For Official Use Only

10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY: For Official Use Only

FILENAME: K:\002806.D06
DIRECTOR: D:\PROGRAM FILES\ADOBE\ADROBAT
4.0\ADROBAT\ALG\INSIO\ENAL\TRANSFORM\TEMP
TEMPLATE: D:\PROGRAM
FILES\TEMPLATES\NORMAL.DOT
TITLE:
SUBJECT:
AUTHOR: A00MM268
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